

Region IV National Cup Policies 2017

201 TEAM ELIGIBILITY

The USASA National Amateur Cup competitions shall be open to any team whose players are registered with USASA through a Member Organization if the team is in compliance with all of the following requirements. A club may have more than one team in a competition as long as each player pool meets the requirements of the USASA National Amateur Cup Policies.

1. The team must be comprised of properly registered players, must be in good standing with its Organization Member, and must be in compliance with the bylaws and policies of USASA.
2. The team players must compete in an affiliated league of an Organization Member.
3. Teams may have a maximum of 22 players in their player pool but must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the state, regional and the national USASA Cup rounds of competitions by maintaining a minimum of 11 players common to the roster of both the rounds of competitions. No team is permitted to enter and play in any USASA National Amateur Cup Competition by entering that competition more than once.
4. Any team participating in any competition or game that could result in that team representing its state association at the regional or national cup competitions must:
 - (a) be duly registered with USASA in accordance with National Cup policy 201-2;
 - (b) have submitted a national cup entry form with the appropriate fee to the national USASA office before that competition begins;
 - (c) recognize that failure to comply with (a) or (b) above will render the team ineligible.

202 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

1. Each player of a team competing in the USASA National Amateur Cup Competition must meet the eligibility criteria by being properly registered with that team at least 10 days prior to any game in the competition in which the player may participate. Proper registration includes complying with all appropriate registration requirements of the national state association, other USASA member, USASA, other federation member, the Federation, and FIFA.
2. In this USASA competition, a player who is found to require, but has not obtained, International Clearance is provisionally assumed to be an “eligible player.” Within one week of being notified that International Clearance for such a player is required, International Clearance Request must be submitted. If International Clearance is received, no further action is required. If International Clearance is denied, that player is ruled ineligible, and any game in question will be decided in accordance with the rules of the competition.
3. Players competing in the USASA Men’s National Amateur Cup must have amateur status.

4. A player may not actually play for more than one team in the same competition. A registered player who has not actually played in a given competition may be registered and play for another team in the same competition. A player may also play in different competitions.
5. A player under suspension is not eligible to participate in the USASA National Amateur Cup competition, until the suspension has been served.

203 PLAYER POOL

1. A Player Pool Form (provided by the Cups Committee and available on the website), listing not more than 22 players qualified to participate must be submitted as follows:
 - (a) For state rounds of competition, to the USASA National office not later than 15 days prior to the USASA National Amateur Cup game, unless the time limit is waived, or modified to the minimum 10 day time limit, by the Cup Commissioner. A team that does not submit a Player Pool Form 15 days prior to the first game of the State rounds of competition shall be subject to a fine of \$100 per day for every day late (up to five days). If the Player Pool Form is not submitted 10 days prior to (or 5 days after) the designated due date of the first game of the State rounds of competition, the team shall be disqualified and removed from the State rounds of competition. If a team does not submit an updated pool form after the first round of competition, the last known pool form will be used.
 - (b) For Regional rounds of competition, to the USASA National office not later than 15 days prior to any USASA National Amateur Cup game, unless the time limit is waived, or modified to the minimum 10 day time limit, by the Cup Commissioner. A team that does not submit a Player Pool Form 15 days prior to the first game of the State rounds of competition shall be subject to a fine of \$100 per day for every day late (up to five days). If the Player Pool Form is not submitted 10 days prior to (or 5 days after) the designated due date of the first game of the State rounds of competition, the team shall be disqualified and removed from the State rounds of competition. If a team does not submit an updated pool form after the first round of competition, the last known pool form will be used.
 - (c) For national rounds of competition, to the USASA Executive Director at the USASA office not later than 15 days prior to the first game of the national rounds of competition. A team that does not submit a Player Pool Form by the above deadline shall be subject to a fine of \$100 per day for every day, up to five days. If the Player Pool Form is not submitted by 10 days prior to the first game of the national rounds of competition, the team shall be disqualified and removed from the national rounds of competition.
2. At least seven days prior to the originally scheduled date of a game, every team playing in any of the state or regional rounds of competitions shall have access to the opposing team's pool form (by overnight express mail, telephone facsimile, electronic mail, or website) of eligible players from which the team will be selected. The player pool may not include more than 22 players (**11 of which must be on the original Player Pool Form**) and may not be changed for replayed or postponed games.

3. This Player Pool Form must be filled out completely and typed, signed by a team official, and must be verified and dated by the appropriate state association, regional league, or national league.
4. No game in any of the National Cup games may be played without the respective Cups Commissioner being in possession of a verified Player Pool Form of each of the teams involved.

204 ENTRIES

1. The entry fees shall be determined annually by the regional councils.
2. Only money orders, cashier's or certified checks, or member organization checks will be accepted.
3. An Organization Member may assess additional fees to cover referee and administrative expenses if approved by the USASA National Amateur Cup Commissioner.
4. All entry forms and payment for teams shall go through the USASA National office.

301 UNIFORMS

1. When the referee determines that the uniforms of the two competing teams are so similar as to create possible player identification problems on the field, the home team shall change its uniform. However, if the visiting team is wearing colors other than those submitted on the Official Entry Form, the visiting team shall change.
2. **Clearly visible numbers**, at least six inches high and sewn, pressed, or silk screened on, **must be worn on the back of each player's jersey**. Each player on a team must wear a different number, including the Goalkeeper. A description of the team's uniforms shall be provided on the "Official Entry Form" and on the Player Pool Form.

302 PLAYER PASSES

1. Each player shall carry a laminated or otherwise tamper-resistant, USASA-approved identification pass bearing the player's photograph and indicating the player's membership on an affiliated USASA team. The pass shall be presented to the referee before entering the game and shall be made available to the representative of the opposing team on request. A player who competes on different teams in separate competitions must have a separate player pass for each team.
2. Each player pass shall be verified by the player's state association, national or regional league, affiliate or other organization member, as appropriate, and by the designated representative of the state association, league, or member.

303 PLAYING RULES

In all rounds played in the USASA National Amateur Cup competitions, the playing rules are the FIFA Laws of the Game in effect at the time of the entry deadline, with the following exceptions:

1. The length of the field may not be more than 120 yards nor less than 100 yards, and the width of the field may not be more than 80 yards nor less than 65 yards.
2. Goal nets must be used. The field shall be marked in accordance with the Laws of the Game. A flag on a post not less than five feet high and having a non-pointed top shall be placed at each corner.
3. Each team will be allowed to select not more than 18 players from its player pool to participate in any particular game. Thirty minutes prior to the start of the game, each team will provide to the referee and the other team, a game roster designating not more than 11 starting players, and not more than 7 players from the Player Pool List from which substitutions may be made.
4. In all rounds of the Men's Amateur Cup competition, a maximum of seven substitutions shall be allowed in each game. A player who has been replaced by a substitute may not re-enter the game at any time.
5. Substitution policies (303 above) may be modified by the regional council for regional rounds of competition, or by the national state association for state rounds of competition. For National Rounds (303) cannot be waived or modified.

304 COMPETITION FORMAT

The USASA National Amateur Cup competitions shall be conducted at the following levels:

1. The first level of competitions shall be the state rounds of competition for teams of the state associations, for teams of affiliates of USASA, and for teams of national leagues and regional leagues.
2. The second level of the competitions shall be on the regional level. These competitions shall be for teams advancing beyond the state rounds.
3. The third level of the competitions shall be the national rounds of competition for teams that are champions and/or runners-up as provided by Rule 407-1 of each of the regions.
4. Regional Cups Commissioners may organize the regional rounds of competition in a manner agreed to at a regional council meeting. This may include round robin brackets, double elimination, or single elimination.
5. Depending upon the format chosen and approved by the Regional Council, a tie may be allowed to stand. In games in which a winner must be determined, the Regional Cups Commissioner shall have the authority to decide whether games will go into overtime periods or directly to kicks from the penalty mark as prescribed by FIFA.

6. In all national rounds of competitions in which the score of any game is tied at the end of the second half, there will be two overtime periods of 15 minutes each. If the game remains tied at the end of the two overtime periods, the winner will then be determined by kicks from the penalty mark as prescribed by FIFA.
7. If for any cause, a game is not completed, it must be replayed in its entirety.
 - (a) However, if the non-completion of a game results from misconduct clearly traceable to one of the competing teams, its management, or its followers, the Cups Commissioner for that level of play shall decide on the disposition of the game.
 - (b) If a game is not completed because one of the teams is unable to field at least seven players, the score will stand as of the moment of termination or abandonment. If the team responsible for abandonment has more goals than the opposing team, or the game is tied, the opposing team will be awarded a forfeit victory.
 - (c) If the team awarded the forfeit has scored fewer than three goals, it shall be awarded the forfeit victory of three goals.
 - (d) In regional rounds of competition, the decision of the regional cups commissioner is final and cannot be appealed. In national rounds of competition, the decision of the National Cup Chair is final and cannot be appealed.
8. When severe weather or other extenuating circumstances prevent the playing or conclusion of a game, the appropriate State Cup, Regional Cup or National Cup Commissioner, with concurrence of members of the State, Regional or National Executive Committee or Board of Directors, who may be present at the site, will determine the resolution of any unplayed or unfinished games using the guidelines listed below:
 - (a) In group games, if the first half of a game has been completed, the score of the game when terminated shall stand. If one or more games have not been completed, standings will be based on:
 - i. Average points (points/games played)
 - ii. Head to head resultsThe same criteria would apply to all other tie-breakers (average goal difference, etc.). If the group standings are identical, the State Cup, Regional Cup or National Cup Commissioner, with concurrence of members of the appropriate Board of Directors or Executive Committee, will determine a final resolution.
 - (b) In single elimination games:
 - i. if the first half of a game has been completed, the score of the game when terminated shall stand.
 - ii. If the game is not played, the group standings which have already been played will be used: the highest standing team advances, or is the winner of the competition.
 - iii. If the records of the two teams are identical, the appropriate Cup Commissioner, with concurrence of the members of the appropriate Board of Directors or Executive Committee, shall determine a final resolution.

305 PLAYER AND TEAM OFFICIAL DISCIPLINE

1. Team officials (coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, and others allowed to be in the technical area) are expected to behave in a responsible manner. A team official may be expelled from the field by the referee, in which case the team official must leave the technical and playing area of the field entirely and no longer participate directly or indirectly in the match. The dismissed team official will also be suspended from participating in the next scheduled match of the official's team, but the National Cup Chair may increase or add other penalties as the behavior warrants.
2. Players shall be suspended for a minimum of one game if they were sent off the field by the referee for a second cautionable offense.
3. Suspension of an ejected player for all other reasons shall be for a minimum of the two subsequent, pre-scheduled league or National Cup games. The ejected player's pass, along with a copy of each referee and assistant referee report must be promptly sent to the player's state association, national league, regional league, or organization member, which shall have the authority to increase the period of suspension.
4. Suspensions shall be served as follows:
 - (a) If any player or team official is participating in the USASA National Amateur Cup competition that ejected player or dismissed team official will be suspended from the next one [Policy 305(2)] or two [Policy 305(3)] games of all competitions in which that player or team official is eligible to participate.
 - (b) During the next one or two cup games of the current cups competition in which that player or team official is eligible to participate.
 - (c) During the next scheduled game (exhibition and indoor games not included) in which that player or team official is eligible to participate, if the team's participation in the current cups competition has ended.

306 TEAM AND PLAYER BREACH OF RULES

1. The USASA National Amateur Cup Chair has the authority to suspend and/or disqualify and remove from further participation in any National Cups competition, any team, team official, or player of any competing team who has been proven guilty of any breach of the rules of USASA or the Federation.
2. All notices of disqualification or suspension shall be forwarded by electronic mail or overnight delivery to any affected team, except that the minimum of one game or two games suspension under rule 305 is effective without notice.
3. If there is a dispute (other than one involving referee assault or abuse) arising from a National Cup game under the jurisdiction of the USASA in which suspensions or penalties of greater than 30 days or more are imposed against an individual, an opportunity shall be provided for the individual to appeal any such decision of the National Cup Chair or State Cup Commissioner to

the USASA Appeals Committee. The decision of the USASA Appeals Committee shall be final. The procedures for appealing a decision of the National Cup Chair or State Cups Commissioner shall follow the provisions of Bylaw 642 of the USASA.

4. The USASA National Amateur Cups Chair has authority to establish a policy for imposing fines for games at the state, regional and national level of the USASA National Amateur Cup competition. At their discretion, the Chair has the authority to impose additional penalties and suspensions for unsportsmanlike conduct, including requiring such team to reimburse the USASA for all travel expenses, awards, prizes, etc. for the appropriate round of National Cups competition.
5. Any team which abandons a game in progress in any regional or national round of competition shall be disqualified and removed from the competition and shall forfeit their bond and entry fee, as well as any awards to which they would otherwise be entitled to by completing the game.

307 WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COMPETITION

1. Any team withdrawing from the competition at the state, regional or national level must give notice of its intention to withdraw to the USASA National office along with the reason for the withdrawal. At the regional and national level of competition, the withdrawal must be submitted within 72 hours of being declared eligible to advance to the next level.
2. If any team notifies the USASA National office of their intent to withdraw after the 72 hours, the team will be subject to forfeiture of bond money, removal from participation in the USASA National Amateur Cup program for up to two years, and penalties and fines associated with the teams withdrawal, at the discretion of the Regional or National Cup Chairperson.
3. Any team, and players registered to that team, which does not pay the fines or penalties imposed within the required deadline shall be suspended. The team and each player listed on the last known submitted Player Pool Form will be considered “not in good standing” with the league and all other affiliations until the fines and penalties have been paid.

308 DISQUALIFICATIONS

1.
 - (a) A team that is found to be ineligible to participate in the USASA National Amateur Cup competition, or is found to be using an ineligible player at any level of the competition, shall be disqualified from the competition.
 - (b) A claim of player ineligibility for state rounds of competitions shall be resolved by the State Cup Commissioner, with consultation and approval of the Regional Cup Commissioner. Likewise, the Regional Cups Commissioner or National Cup Chairperson shall resolve issues involving their competitions.
2. A team may also be disqualified from the USASA National Amateur Cup competitions for failure to comply with the rules of the competitions, or for other just causes as determined by the National Cups Chairperson.

3. A player who participates in a match by falsely representing him/herself as a player whose name appears on the Player Pool Form will be disqualified and any game in which the player participated will be forfeited by the team.
4. If a team is disqualified from regional or national rounds of competition, the National Cup Chairperson shall have absolute discretion to appropriately adjust the structure or form of the remainder of the competition. If a team is disqualified from state rounds of competition, the State Cups Commissioner shall have the absolute discretion to appropriately adjust the structure or form of the remainder of the state rounds of competition.

309 FORFEITS

1. Any team that forfeits is considered to be disqualified.
2. Any scheduled game that is forfeited will result in a 3:0 score for the opponent.

402 TEAM BOND REQUIREMENT

1. The winning team of any state round is responsible for the posting of a \$500 bond upon entry into the regional round of competition. The organization member may opt to post the bond on behalf of its winning team. The bond should be paid in the form of a cashier's check or certified check, or a check may be issued from an organization member. Alternatively, a region may choose to allow their organization members to post the bond in the form of a commitment to the region by the organization member should a team not fulfill its obligations.
2. The Regional Cups Commissioner shall set a deadline and shall indicate where this bond is to be posted, as per each region's policies.
3. No regional or national round of competition involving that team may begin unless the bond has been posted.
 4. If a team does not fulfill its obligation to participate in a regional or national round of competition, the bond will be forfeited.

410 PROTESTS

1. Any protest concerning a game played in state rounds of competitions shall be referred to the State Cups Commissioner. The commissioner shall decide the protest and that decision may not be appealed. Any protest concerning a game in regional rounds of competitions shall be referred to the USASA National Amateur Cup Chairperson through the Regional Cups Commissioner for disposition. The decision of the Chairperson may not be appealed.
2. Should it become necessary, so as not to seriously and adversely impact a competition schedule, that an immediate decision regarding a protest in the regional rounds of competition

is required, the Regional Cups Commissioner shall have the authority to render such a decision without consultation of the National Cups Chairperson, provided that:

- (a) the protest fee has been paid, and
- (b) both teams involved have been given the opportunity to present statements, either verbally or in writing, to the Regional Cups Commissioner. In the case of such an expedited decision regarding the format, distribution, and timing of notices and responses shall not apply.

3.

- (a) The protest must be made in writing and must describe in detail the grounds for the protest.
- (b) (1) The original protest and a protest fee of \$500 shall be submitted to the State Cups Commissioner for state rounds of competitions within three days of the game to which the protest relates. A copy of the protest must be forwarded to the opposing team in the game. The protest shall be submitted to the appropriate Cups Commissioner and the opposing team by overnight express mail, telephone facsimile, or electronic mail.

And the Regional Cups Commissioner for regional rounds of competitions within three hours of the game to which the protest relates. All information must be presented in person.

(2) The protest fee for state rounds must be sent to the appropriate Cups Commissioner in the form of cashier's or certified check, or money order, payable to "USASA".

For regional and national rounds the protest fee can be presented to the appropriate Cups Commissioner or Cup Chairperson in the form of cashier's or certified check, or money order made payable to "USASA".

- (c) In state rounds the opposing team shall have seven days from the date the copy of the protest was forwarded, to submit to the appropriate Cups Commissioner its statement regarding the protest, if any. A copy of the statement shall be submitted to the opposing team by overnight express mail, telephone facsimile, or electronic mail.
- (d) No protest shall be considered for the alleged use of an ineligible player whose name appears on the Player Pool Form received by the opposing team under "203" unless prior to the game a written protest, accompanied by the \$500 protest fee, is lodged with the referee and the opposing team for that game.
- (e) The protest shall be decided as soon as possible and may require further submission of evidence related to the protest.
- (f) (1) For a protest related to state rounds of competitions, notice of the State Cups Commissioner's decision shall be sent by overnight delivery, telephone facsimile, or electronic mail to both teams competing in the game which was the subject of the protest. In addition, the State Cups Commissioner must forward a copy of the decision, and copies of the documentation available in the case, within three days of the decision to the appropriate Regional Cups Commissioner.

- (2) For protests relating to regional and national rounds of competitions, notice of the National Cup Chairperson's decision shall be delivered in person, telephone, facsimile, or electronic mail to both teams competing in the game which was the subject of the protest. In addition, the Cups Chairperson must forward to the Executive Committee a copy of the decision and accompanying documentation available in the case, within three days of the decision.
- (g) A protest may be withdrawn in writing after it has been submitted, but withdrawal of a protest shall result in forfeiture of the protest fee, which shall be forwarded to USASA.
4. The protest fee shall be returned if the protest is sustained, or forwarded to USASA if the protest is not sustained.